

Veteran Specific Reentry Programs
September 6, 2012
3:00-4:00 p.m. eastern

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Veteran Specific Reentry will look at state and local efforts to help veterans re-enter society, prevent recidivism, address risk factors and connect to benefits they have earned through service to their country. This webinar will focus on efforts taking place within the Indiana Department of Correction's Veterans Education and Transition Program and county level efforts taking place in Washington State. The presenters for this webinar are Sarah Neidlinger, veteran's specialist for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Alexis Dean, reentry specialist with the Indiana Department of Corrections and David Green, project manager with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs.

About the Presenters

Sarah Neidlinger is the Health Care for Reentry Veteran's (HCRV) Specialist with the Veteran's Administration (VA) for the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), which covers much of Indiana and mid-east Illinois. She has a Master's degree in Social Work from Indiana University School of Social Work and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with the state of Indiana. In her role as HCRV Specialist, she provides outreach to veterans at over 20 correctional facilities in Indiana and mid-east Illinois who are within six to 12 months from release. She has been with the VA for over five years. Prior to her current position, she held VA positions in mental health, homeless outreach, primary care social work, and as a Grant Per Diem Liaison.

Alexis Dean began her career in corrections at the Plainfield Correctional Facility as a substance abuse counselor. She helped start the first therapeutic community program at that facility. After two years at Plainfield Correctional Facility, she became a Reentry Specialist at the then-Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility. In November 2010 she was selected to begin developing the Indiana Veterans Education and Transition Unit which opened in January 2011 at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility. The Veterans Education and Transition Unit is the only veterans-specific unit in the state and one of the first in the country.

David Green is the project manager for the Incarcerated and Justice Involved Veterans program at the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs. After earning his Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Montana, he spent 10 years as the deputy director for the state coalition on domestic violence and sexual assault programs in Idaho. In 2007, he moved to Tacoma and started his current position with the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs. In this position he provides services to veterans in municipal, county and state correctional facilities and works to help establish local veteran related programs including veteran treatment and therapeutic courts.